



**BILL RICHARDSON**  
GOVERNOR

*State of New Mexico*  
**ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT**  
*Office of the Secretary*  
*Harold Runnels Building*  
*1190 St. Francis Drive, P.O. Box 26110*  
*Santa Fe, New Mexico 87502-6110*  
*Telephone (505) 827-2855*  
*Fax (505) 827-2836*



**RON CURRY**  
SECRETARY

**For Immediate Release**  
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Contact: Michele Mykris, NMED SWQB Outreach Coordinator  
Phone: (505) 827-0418  
Contact: Jon Goldstein, NMED Communications Director  
Phone: (505) 827-0314

## **Environment Department Celebrates Earth Week With Water Quality Efforts Throughout New Mexico**

(Santa Fe, NM) —Every year, Earth Day reminds us of the efforts we can make every day to help protect our environment. This year, the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) will be emphasizing water quality efforts during Earth Week, April 18-24.

“New Mexico’s water quality, the cleanliness of our lakes, rivers, streams and underground aquifers, has never been more important,” said NMED Secretary Ron Curry. “In our arid environment, every drop of water is precious, especially during a drought.”

NMED actions highlighting water quality during Earth Week will include:

**KNME Call In Show and Water Quality Video Screening:** On **Wednesday, April 21** Secretary Curry will discuss water quality issues on KNME-TV’s Stateline New Mexico program from 7 to 7:30 pm. Following this program, KNME will air NMED’s water quality documentary, “Water Warning: It’s Not Just the Drought.” This half hour film examines New Mexico’s most pressing water quality issues, from septic tanks to Los Alamos National Laboratory.

**Free Mescalero Water Testing:** NMED’s Groundwater and Surface Water Quality Bureaus will be participating in the Mescalero Apache Earth Day Water Fair, **Friday, April 16**, from 2:30 to 6 pm at the Community Center Gym in Mescalero. NMED will offer free testing for contaminants in water from private wells. In order to be tested, samples must be at least one quart in volume, freshly drawn from a cold water tap, and brought in a covered, clean glass or plastic container that did not previously contain pickles or juice. Samples should be collected before any water treatment system, such as reverse osmosis, an activated carbon filter, or a water softener.

**Santa Fe Schools:** NMED Surface Water Quality Bureau (SWQB) staff will be teaming up with the City of Santa Fe Water Conservation Office and the Santa Fe County Land Use Department on a traveling environmental education festival. From **April 19<sup>th</sup> through the 23<sup>rd</sup>**, employees of those agencies will be traveling to many Santa Fe Public Elementary Schools to present lessons and activities to fourth grade students. Activities will illustrate the importance of New Mexico’s clean water and teach students how they can take part in preserving our precious water resources. Students will also brainstorm ways to reduce water consumption.

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**Silver City Festival:** NMED Surface Water Bureau staff will be available to answer water questions and provide information during the Earth Day Festival planned for Silver City's Penny Park from 10 am to 3 pm on **Saturday, April 24.**

For more information, contact Michele Mykris, Outreach Coordinator for the NMED SWQB at (505) 827-0418, or Jon Goldstein, Communications Director, NMED at (505) 827-0314.

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